

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A trailing edge deletion prevention apparatus suitable for use with ~~[[an]]~~ a thermal printer ~~image-forming~~ system, comprising:

a paper guide mounted along a paper path ~~and adapted to guide paper along said paper path~~; and

a biasing member mounted to said ~~image-forming system~~ printer on an upstream side of the paper guide and biased against said paper guide along said paper path, wherein a piece of paper is passed between said biasing member and said paper guide to be taut to a location further along the paper path and ~~allowing a printing device head to be~~ is moved over said paper while allowing an edge of said printing head ~~device~~ to extend beyond said paper guide to a position on the upstream side of the paper guide and to print along a trailing edge of said paper, wherein the upstream side of the paper guide is in a direction opposite the direction of travel of the paper in the paper path.

2. (Original) The trailing edge deletion prevention apparatus of claim 1, wherein said paper guide is a roller and is mounted perpendicular to said paper path and adapted to be rotatably mounted about an axis perpendicular to said paper path.

3. (Original) The trailing edge deletion prevention apparatus of claim 1, wherein said biasing member is a pinch spring.

4. (Original) The trailing edge deletion prevention apparatus of claim 3, wherein said biasing member has a first end adapted to be mounted to said image forming system and a second end biased against said paper guide such that said biasing member is substantially aligned, from said first end to said second end, toward said paper path.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The trailing edge detection prevention apparatus of claim 17, wherein said paper guide is a roller and is mounted perpendicular to said paper path and adapted to be rotatably mounted about an axis perpendicular to said paper path.

7. (Previously Presented) The trailing edge detection prevention apparatus of claim 17, wherein said biasing member is a pinch spring.

8. (Original) The trailing edge deletion prevention apparatus of claim 7, wherein said biasing member has a first end adapted to be mounted to said image forming system and a second end biased against said paper guide such that said biasing member is substantially aligned, from said first end to said second end, toward said paper path.

9-12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing deleting a trailing edge of a piece of paper processed by ~~[[an]] a thermal image-forming printing~~ system, comprising the steps of:

 biasing a biasing member against a paper guide on an upstream side of the paper guide;

 passing a piece of paper between said biasing member and said paper guide such that said piece of paper is taut to a location further along a paper path; and

 moving a printing device over said piece of paper while allowing an edge of said printing device to extend beyond said paper guide to a position on the upstream side of the paper guide, to allow an image to be formed along a trailing edge of said paper, wherein the upstream side of the paper guide is in a direction opposite the direction of travel of the paper in the paper path.

14. (Previously Presented) The trailing edge deletion prevention apparatus of

claim 1 further including:

a paper guide/biasing member position wherein the paper guide and biasing member meet.

15. (Previously Presented) The trailing edge deletion prevention apparatus of claim 14, wherein the printing device includes a printing area substantially located over the paper guide/biasing member position.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein said moving step includes:

locating the printing device over a position where said biasing member and said paper guide meet.

17. (Currently Amended) A trailing edge deletion prevention apparatus suitable for use with ~~[[an]]~~ a thermal printing image-forming system, comprising:

a movable printing device having at least a first edge, and a printing area;

a paper guide mounted along a paper path and adapted to guide paper along said paper path; and

a biasing member mounted to said ~~image-forming~~ printing system on an upstream side of the paper guide and biased against said paper guide to cause said paper to be taut to a location further along said paper path and configured to accommodate the movable printing device to move over a piece of paper wherein the first edge of said printing device extends beyond said paper guide to a position on the upstream side of the paper guide to allow an image to be formed along a trailing edge of said paper, and wherein the printing area of the printing device is substantially located over a position where the biasing member and the paper guide meet.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the upstream side of the paper guide is in a direction opposite the direction of travel of the paper in the paper path.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the printing area extends to at least a central axis of the printing guide.

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the printing area extends to at least a central axis of the printing guide.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the printing area extends to at least a central axis of the printing guide.